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Index

Page	To Whom	Date	
	A		
4	Allen Ebenezer	Dec 9. 1844	appointed Sec. of State, ad Interim
4	" "	" 9. "	" Attorney General
	B. & C		
30	Cooke Wm G.	March 10. 1845	appointed Sec of War and Marine
30	Campbell John	June 5. 1845	appointed to examine and report as to the Condition of the Public Buildings at Austin
31	Cybrey Baron Allegade	June 6th 1845	acknowledging the receipt from him of the Mexicans proposal to recognize the Independence of Texas
	D		
41	Darnell J. H	Nov 12. 1845	Directions as to the delivery of a memorial in reference to the Naval officers of Texas being incorporated in the Navy of the United States
	E. F. G. H		
3	Hoyle Stephen G	Dec 9. 1844	Appointed Private Secretary
5	Hamilton M. C.	Dec 9. 1844.	Appointed Sec. of War and Marine
5			
49	Hill B. F	Sept 28. 1846	Militia force of Texas
	I. J. K. L		
6	Johnson Moses	Dec 9. 1844	Appointed Treasurer
42	Jackson Andrew	June 23. 1845	Transmitting a Resolution to
	M.		
5	Mason Chas	Dec 9. 1844	Appointed Auditor
22	Mellen Capt.	Jany 20. 1845	ordered to arrest one Kennedy, as deserter from American vessel

	To Whom	Date	
1.	Message to Congress	Dec 9. 1844	Inaugural of Anson Jones, President
6	" " "	" 12th "	Nominations
6	" " "	" 12th "	Nomonination
7	" " "	" 16th "	Transmitting Colony Contracts
7	" " "	" 16th "	" information relative to the Post Office Dept.
7	" " "	" 16th "	Genral Message
16	" " "	" 17th "	Transmitting information from the Treasury
16	" " "	" 17th "	" " " " "
16	" " "	" 23d "	" " relation to the funds for the Mier Prisoners
16	" " "	" 23d "	In reponse to information called for
17	" " "	" 26th "	Transmitting information
17	" " "	" 27th "	" Report of the Supt. of Indian affairs
17	" " "	" 30th "	" Information to a Committee
18	" " "	" 30th "	Nominations
18	" " "	Jany 6th 1845	Transmitting Documents
18	" " "	" 8th "	Nominations
19	" " "	" 8th "	Vetoing the bill ordering the return of the Government to Austin
21	" " "	" 9th "	Information as to the Court Martial of Post Capt W Moore
21	" " "	" 10th "	Withdrawing the Nomination of a Notary Public
22	" " "	" 21st "	Nominations
23	" " "	" 21st "	Submitting Diplomatic Correspondence relating to annexation
23	" " "	" 25th "	Nominations
23	" " "	" 28th "	Transmitting Documents
24	" " "	" 27th "	Vetoing a bill relative to fraudulent land certificates
26	" " "	" 30th "	" " " defining the duties of the officers of the Treasury Dept
28	" " "	Feby 3d "	" " " bill for the relief of Capt John G Tod
32	" " "	June 10th "	Genral Message to the Extra Session of the 9th Congress
33	" " "	" 18th "	Transmitting the conditions preliminary to a treaty of peace with Mexico
34	" " "	" 23d "	" Documents
35	" " "	" 23d "	" Information
36	" " "	" 25th "	" " our Documents
36	" " "	" 27th "	Veto of the bill for the relief of Post Capt C W Moore
40	" " "	" 28th "	Transmitting information
40	" 1st Legislature		Farewell "The Republic is no more"

N O

4th	Ochiltree W B	Dec 9. 1844	Appointed Sec of the Treasury
30	O'Hara Mr	June 6th 1845	To Examine to examine and report the condition of the Public Buildings at Austin
46	Cowenhoven Clerk L	aug 22 1845	U States troops at Corpus Christi - Texas troops - Indians - appointed Colonel, Instructions
48	" " "	" 28th "	arms & munitions at Galveston, Militia forces of Texas

Pages	To Whom	Date	
	P.		
40	Polk Jas K	July 12. 1845	In reference to annexation
41	" " "	Nov 12. 1845	Transmitting a Resolution of the Convention, relative to incorporating the Navy
	" " "		officers of Texas in the United States Navy
42	" " "	Nov 12th 1845	Transmitting a copy of the constitution of the State of Texas
42	" " "	Feby 16th 1846	acknowledging the receipt of his letter
	R. R. S.		
5	Shaw Jas. B.	Dec 9. 1844	Appointed Comptroller
29	Smith Ashbil	Feby 5. 1845	Appointed Sec. of State
	T. T.		
44	Taylor Genl Z	Aug 23. 1845	Mexican Invasions, movements of troops, Texas troops, Indian frontier

Page	To Whom	Date

Gentlemen of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives:

Called by the suffrages of my fellow citizens, to discharge the duties of Chief Magistrate of the nation, I now appear before you, to make known my readiness to the requirements of the Constitution, in the performance of the responsibilities therein it vests. Deeply impressed on this occasion, that I should address you, as the immediate representatives of a common constituency, the deep and grateful sense which I entertain, of the distinguished honor which has been conferred upon me, and at the same time, declare to you and to them, the strong determination which I shall carry with me to discharge the executive functions with faithfulness and zeal; and, so far as I may be able, in such a manner as I sincerely hope, will best sustain and promote the general welfare and the common good of every section of the Republic.

The occasion which has now called us together, is one of deep and absorbing interest to myself, and I doubt not it is so to you, the constitutional representatives of a free, sovereign and confiding people.

For my own part, I wish not to disguise the fact, that I shall approach the discharge of the duties which the functionaries of my country have assigned me, as President of this Republic, with a profound sense of the importance of the trust, and with a painful acquaintance with the embarrassing duties of the office, and a sincere distrust of my abilities, and not, in any respect, calculated to enhance.

When I turn my eyes upon the distinguished individual who has this day, for the second time, vacated this Presidential chair, under the prescribing requirements of the constitution — the voice of the people of this country have long delighted to honor with their confidence and esteem — whose sincere attachment to the decided feeling of affectionate regard with which they have ever cherished his character, and recollect the difficulties and embarrassments with which they were at all times surrounded, and with which they have now to contend, and with a heart which beats high with the purest devotion for our dear country, and with an anxiety for her welfare, ever solicitous of the security, honor, individual and enjoying invariable integrity, the confidence of his fellow citizens, I am induced solemnly sensible of the magnitude of the high undertaking I have this day assumed,

and to regard the success likely to attend my efforts, with confirmed distrust and self-distrustion. I can only promise you a faithful and zealous performance of the duty, and I ask your kind and liberal support. I have no doubt, that freely and frankly upon the co-ordinate branches of the government, for that aid and support which I have a right to expect, will be promptly accorded to such measures as are best calculated to promote the general welfare of our constituents, sustain the honor and dignity of the country, in the elevated attitude it now maintains, and protect the rights and interests of its citizens, in the remotest extremities of our territorial limits.

In congratulating myself, therefore, upon being thus early surrounded by the representatives of the people, now met in general congress, from whose wisdom and patriotism, I may derive those aids which will be indispensable to a successful commencement on my part, of the administration of the government.

It belongs not to the present occasion to discuss the various subjects connected with the present or future welfare of the country. Other occasions will occur for the appropriate performance of that duty. It is however due to that frankness which I intend shall ever attach to my communications of the executive functions, to state briefly in advance, those objects which I conceive of importance to the welfare of the country, respectfully to ask your attention to the same, and your legislative aid, so far as they may meet your approbation in carrying them into effect.

Premising that I shall hold it my especial duty to preserve the Constitution sacred and inviolate, I deem it of scarcely less importance a rigid and impartial execution of the laws, civil and criminal; giving consequent security to persons and to property, and a strict accountability in all the offices of the government; thus securing, to the greatest extent, the public interests. The other objects to which I have alluded, are the following:

The maintenance of the public credit and the preservation of the national faith, both as it regards individuals and nations.

A reduction of the expenses of the government to as small an amount as is consistent with the efficient administration of its different departments.

The entire abolishment of paper money issued by government, corporations or individuals, and the consequent introduction of an exclusive hard money currency.

A tariff sufficient to provide with certainty for the current expenses of the government, and for leaving a convenient amount of surplus in the Treasury at all times, to meet any unexpected emergency, with incidental protection and encouragement to our agricultural and manufacturing interests.

The establishment of a system of common schools and institutions, for the moral and religious culture of the rising generation.

The attainment of a speedy peace with Mexico, and the encouragement of a desirable immigration to the country, and the introduction of capital to develope its vast resources.

Friendly and just relations with our red brethren, as commanded not only according with the dictates of humanity, but the principles of a correct religious and political policy, as affording the best expedient protection and greatest safety to our extended frontier?

The introduction of a Penitentiary system into the criminal jurisprudence of the country.

Encouragement to Internal Improvements, such as the construction of bridges, the improvement of roads, and the navigation of our rivers.

The extension of our friendly and commercial relations with foreign powers, and a favorable consideration for our great staple productions, cotton, sugar and tobacco, exempt if these ever from inconvenient and entangling alliances.

An early settlement of the claims of our citizens to their bounty lands.

Finally, gentlemen, upon you for the necessary aid and assistance in the prosecution of these objects, and all others which may be calculated to promote the general good. At times, perplexities and struggling people have confided their most important interests to our care and keeping. It will be our high, our constant duty, to watch it is my manifest duty, to co-operate with you in every thing by which the confidence they have reposed in us may be redeemed, our civil institutions more firmly established, and the great cause of representative freedom fostered and advanced.

It only remains for me to express my fervent desire, that all your deliberations may tend to the advancement of the peace, prosperity and happiness of Texas, and that Heaven may crown your labors in the cause of your country, with its richest blessings.

Sam Houston

Washington, Dec 9th 1844.

Executive Department
Washington, 9th Dec 1844.

The President requests Stephen F. Hoyle Esq. to proceed forthwith to the discharge of his duties as Private Secretary to the Executive. — The Office of the Department is ready for his occupation.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servant.

Sam Houston

Executive Department
Washington, 9th Nov. 1844.

The President requests the Hon. D. G. Burnet, at his earliest convenience, to take charge of the Treasury Department of the Republic of Texas, and to proceed to the organization and discharge of the duties thereof— The business of the Department requiring early attention—

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant

Geo. W. Hockley

Executive Department
Washington, 9th Nov. 1844.

The President requests the Hon. Ebenezer Allen, at his earliest convenience, to take charge ad-interim of the Department of State of the Republic of Texas, and to proceed to the organization and discharge of the duties thereof— the business of the Department requiring early attention.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant

Geo. W. Hockley

Executive Department
Washington, 9th Nov. 1844.

The President requests the Hon. Ebenezer Allen, at his earliest convenience, to take charge of the Office of Attorney General of the Republic of Texas, and to proceed to the organization and discharge of the duties thereof— the business of the Department requiring early attention.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant

Geo. W. Hockley

Executive Department
Washington, 9th Dec. 1844.

The President requests M. C. Hamilton Esq. to take charge ad-interim of the Department of War & Marine of the Republic of Texas, and to proceed to the organization and discharge of the duties thereof — the business of the Department requiring early attention.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servant.

Anson Jones
Sec'y

Executive Department
Washington, 9th Dec. 1844.

The President requests Charles Mason Esq. to continue in charge of the office of Auditor of the Treasury of the Republic of Texas, and proceed in the performance of the duties thereof con-formably to law.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servant.

Anson Jones
Sec'y

Executive Department
Washington, 9th Dec. 1844.

The President requests James H. Starr Esq to continue in charge of the office of Comptroller of the Treasury of the Republic of Texas, and proceed in the performance of the duties thereof conformably to law.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servant.

Anson Jones
Sec'y

Executive Department
Washington, 9th June 1841.

To
Genl Moses Johnson:

Sir!

The President requests that you will
forthwith communicate to the Marshal of the district over which
the duties of Treasurer of the Cherokees.

You will also forward the bond of the officer which will be required to
given by the Hon. Wm. B. Ochiltree, Secretary of the Treasury.

You will please acknowledge the receipt of this communication.

I am Sir
Your obt. Servt

Executive Department
Washington, 12th June 1841.

To
The Hon. the Senate.

I have the honor to lay before the Senate,
the resignation of the Hon. Wm B. Ochiltree, as District Atty. of the United
States for the Judicial District — received and accepted, on this day.

I am Sir
Your obt. Servt

Executive Department
Washington, 12th June 1841.

To
The Hon. the Senate.

The Executive respectfully submits for
your consideration and advisement the following nominations, viz.

W. B. Ochiltree, Secretary of the Treasury.
Ebenezer Allen, Attorney General.
Moses Johnson, Treasurer.

I am Sir
Your obt. Servt

Executive Department
Washington, 16th Dec. 1844.

To

The Senate of the United States.

I have the honor to transmit for the consideration of the Senate, a treaty of annexation, concluded on the 12th inst. between the United States and Texas, which treaty is herewith transmitted.

In connexion with this great question, I refer you to the accompanying correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Texian Chargé, and to the documents which accompanied the message communicating the treaty to the Senate of the United States.

John Tyler

Executive Department
Washington, 16th Dec. 1844.

To the House of Representatives:

In compliance with a resolution of your honorable body adopted on the 11th inst. requesting information touching the statement of the Acting Chief of the U.S. Post Office Bureau, with accompanying documents, as to the sums required for the service of the Department, I herewith transmit a report from the Postmaster General, and the documents by which it was accompanied.

John Tyler

Executive Department
Washington 16th Dec. 1844.

To the Senate,
and House of Representatives:

I have the
satisfaction of communicating to you the ratification of a treaty of annexation between the United States and the Republic of Texas, concluded at the city of Washington on the 12th inst. by plenipotentiaries duly appointed for the purpose by the two governments, and which treaty has been duly ratified by the Republic of Texas, as appears by the accompanying documents.

The importance of this subject, connected, as it is, with

to your benevolent feelings at the commencement of the present session, has embraced all the information, on subjects interesting to the welfare and condition of the Republic, which it has appeared necessary for your government in the measures relating to the past administration of our national affairs. The full and perfect exposition of our foreign relations, presented in that message, leaves no further information to be communicated touching that subject; and renders unnecessary as well as superfluous, any suggestions upon it, from me at the present time.

It cannot but be remarked however, that, in the existing posture of our affairs, we have arrived at a point of peculiar and deep interest in our political crisis pregnant with deep and abiding interest in our destiny as a nation. But it must be a source of gratification to every patriot that, in our present position, however the aspect of our affairs may excite in the breast of the philosophic statesman cause of apprehension or alarm for the future prosperity of our country, no force threatens us from abroad.

The representatives of the people, in their several assemblies for the performance of providing for the maintenance or security of our national existence, are called by no extraordinary circumstances immediately to attend to any of those questions which have sometimes in the course of human affairs, endangered the hazards and calamities of an appeal to arms.

The history of the world demonstrates, that the prosperity of every community, however exalted or distinguished it may be in its subsequent career and duration, has encountered and overcome amidst the storm concomitants of adversity and perplexity; and fitted to win its way to eminence, experience of the toils and difficulties of the course; and that part, through which it has heretofore struggled and labored beneath the pressure of adverse and depressing influences, only shows that it had no title to claim nor expect in her favor, any exception or immunities of the destiny prescribed for all. We have reasons, however, for joy and congratulation, that our past history and present attitude, while it exhibits to the powers of the earth, our capacity for self government, and our undeniable claim to distinct and elevated nationality; and for unfeigned gratitude to Almighty God, not less for providences that guided our nation through its initiatory struggles, by exhibitions of favor and protection, not less obvious in the course of events, and in the connection of cause and effect, than the pillar and the flame which anciently preceded and led his chosen people in their journey to the promised land.

The fears of our friends touching the permanency of our institutions, and the misrepresentations of our enemies abroad, have no doubt heretofore had an effect greatly to lessen the amount of emigration from other countries to this; but within the last year the unfavorable influences of these causes has been greatly mitigated, though doubtless not completely removed. This is apparent from the tide of immigration, consisting of thousands of families, which, during the last few months, has flowed into the northern, eastern and other portions of our territory — so that the rich harvests and plentiful crops, which in those sections

crowned the heights of the northwestern, hemmed in the city to numerous and formidable assaults, was kept constantly on the alert, and ever ready to meet the foe.

The administration of justice throughout the various sections of our country, has been consistent and uninterrupted, throughout the several districts and counties, in securing the preservation and protection of private and public rights, the inviolability and enjoyment of privileges and property, the suppression of vice and immorality, the punishment of crimes and misdemeanors; and in short, circulating and diffusing the mild and beneficent influence, action and supremacy of the laws, throughout the community. And the peculiarities and nicknames, where some disturbances arose, and assistances of limited insurrection have at times prevailed — good order has been happily restored, and, in the same sections, where the collection of the revenue has been impeded or resisted, submission to the requirements of our statutes on that subject is secured.

Seminaries and the higher institutions of learning, are generally established, and adequately supported in various sections of our country; extending the facilities and blessings of education and instruction to the rising generation, almost as universally and effectually as those privileges are enjoyed in the favored sections of the United States.

And in this connection, the cheering truth should not be forgotten even, that the gospel of peace, untrammelled by any species of legal intolerance or persecution, and cherished by perfect liberty to religious worship according to the dictates of conscience, is constantly and ungainsayingly preached by its ministers of the several christian denominations, in every neighborhood and settlement; and that the millions who assemble at the call of the sabbath bell in the cities and villages of our father land, are joined in their devotions and their worship by the multitudes who, at the same time, gather from like object, throughout all our borders.

The peaceful and happy position, which the preceding review of our affairs evinces that we now occupy as a nation, is to be attributed, under providence, to the operation of those elevated principles of ethics and natural justice, which govern and regulate the intercourse and conduct of the civilized and enlightened powers of the earth. From the moral influence incident to the practice of those principles, our Republic has obtained the respect of the great nations of the world; and in that respect, and in the united and unequivocal approbation with which those nations join in branding the barbarous policy of Mexico, in declaring against her system of savage extermination, we see that in her own powers, she finds the best guaranty for a continuance of the security she enjoys. At the risk of passing the legitimate bounds ordinarily prescribed to a document of this description, I cannot but remark, that the foregoing exaggerated description of our present condition, stamped with deserved falsehoods, the accusation of the pseudo philanthropists and calumniators, that the Anglo-Americans, in their progress of emigration to the west, have carried along with them and incorporated in their institutions an inferior order of civilization. For the history of their migrations, and their

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Them however constitute at the present time, the only available means for the expenses of our civil institutions, the maintenance of our inviolable neutrality, and the protection of our widely extended frontier. The amount of expenditures of the government rendered necessary by these events, has reduced considerably within the year the amount of the current receipts; for by this source alone, can the ordinary wants of the government be sustained, and the most difficult and expensive engagements to the administration prevented.

These statements already submitted to Congress by the Treasury Department, with the view of this amount, and the ample guides to Congress, in making judicious and proper appropriations.

We are in a great measure indebted to the tariff for the present healthy condition of our finances, and past experience proves that it is impossible the government can subsist without it. No system of direct taxation can adequately supply its place. One of the most serious objections to the tariff system has heretofore been that it bears unequally on different sections of the country. This objection, however, in consequence of the energetic exertions of the Treasury Department, I am happy to say, has in a great measure ceased to exist, and with the aid of judicious legislation, giving to the government the power to enforce the revenue laws in the case of importations by land carriage, we have every reason to expect that by the meeting of the next Congress, the Executive will be able to report a general payment of the revenue throughout the Republic.

The subject of revenue is one which you will allow me to recommend to your early deliberate regard, and in connection with it, to suggest the propriety of directing a thorough investigation, devised from the experience of the last three years, into the practical operation of duties on imports, under such regulations as will lead to their general collection in all parts of the country, and their payment and certain payment into the treasury, with a view to the government an amount probably sufficient, under the ordinary circumstances of our state of peace, to meet the wants of an economical administration of its affairs.

So long as the right to impose duties on imports is confined to its legitimate purpose, the raising of a sufficient revenue for the constitutional wants of the government, it may not be material, in the present condition of the country, to pursue any other object of discrimination, than such as will render the returns from it secure and stable, and apply it to such articles as command generally similar revenue in all parts of the country, thereby drawing, as nearly as may be, from all who participate in the blessings of a good government, a proportionably equal contribution to its support. If these objects have been attained by the present tariff, I should hope its provisions might not be disturbed by any act from our fellow citizens which would render it less deserving of public confidence.

Whilst committed to the constitutional, refrain from directing your attention towards the several hardships to which our planting interest is subjected, by the inordinate duties imposed by foreign countries on our cotton, our only staple, I forbear to present particular instances; and to suggest to your especial consideration, the propriety of such laws as shall mitigate the operations of our tariff

[illegible] from such measures, the receipts into the Treasury from the sales of the public lands will be reduced to a very inconsiderable sum during the period for which the cession to the States is graduated.

In connexion with this branch of the subject, the propriety of making some suitable provision for the representatives of officers who have died in the service of their country, is submitted to your consideration.

It appears to me proper, also, that the powers of the Executive should be enlarged, in relation to the contingency provided for in the eighth section of the act of the 3d March, 1825, entitled "An act in addition to the several acts concerning the claims to land in the State of Missouri, and to provide for the settlement of claims to locations in the Choctaw land office, and for other purposes," in case the Choctaw title should not be extinguished before the expiration of the term limited in that section. Various claims to locations in that land office remain unadjusted, which, in the opinion of many persons, ought to be confirmed. Information will be laid before you, in the course of the session, which, it is hoped, will enable you to act understandingly on this subject.

Should the powers of the Executive be enlarged in the manner suggested, it is recommended that a further limitation be imposed, requiring the locations to be made within a specified period.

The commissioners appointed under the act of the 26th May, 1824, "to ascertain claims and decide upon the amount and validity thereof, and of any payments or credits which ought to be allowed to the United States," have, it is believed, executed the duties assigned to them with diligence and fidelity. Their report, which will be communicated to you, will present the names of the claimants, the amount claimed by each, the sum allowed, and the grounds on which their decisions have been made. The papers in each case, which have been carefully preserved, will also be communicated.

The commissioners appointed under the act of the 4th May, 1826, "to ascertain claims and decide upon the amount and validity thereof, and of any payments or credits which ought to be allowed to the United States," have, it is believed, executed the duties assigned to them with diligence and fidelity. Their report, which will be communicated to you, will present the names of the claimants, the amount claimed by each, the sum allowed, and the grounds on which their decisions have been made. The papers in each case, which have been carefully preserved, will also be communicated.

Connected with the subject of land titles, it is deemed expedient to recommend to Congress the passage of a law providing for ascertaining and adjusting the boundaries of the property belonging to the United States, by requiring all persons having claims against it to present the same to the Secretary of War within a definite period, with a view to an equitable adjustment of the same upon principles of equity. The fact, as it is believed, is certainly known to many, that the patrimony of our children has been improvidently lost by extravagance and improvidence, and may at least be husbanded for their future use. Many valuable tracts are thus lost to the public, which, if reserved for a short time, would command a high price for the payment of the public debt or for other national purposes.

There is another subject which will claim your attention, as it has that of every other Congress which preceded it, viz: to provide for the establishment of the seat of government. This has always been a vexed question, and the agitation of it has produced much excitement in the public mind. The efforts of the national legislature to settle it satisfactorily have been fruitless for many years, and as this desirable result would be productive of good to the country and the interests of all her citizens, I would recommend respectfully, but earnestly recommend, that the question of a location of the seat of government for the next twenty years, should be confided to the people for their determination.

The protection of our western and southwestern frontier, is a subject which, from its necessity and importance, will be recommended itself, I doubt not, to the attention of Congress. I would recommend, that some active additional corps of rangers, be authorized to be raised, and that they be mustered into service either permanently or temporarily as future exigencies may require. By this means, it is believed, adequate protection and safety may be afforded to that interesting and hitherto suffering portion of our country.

In a letter addressed to the Secretary of State, under date of the 23d ultimo, and communicated to the Executive Department, my attention has been called to some informalities in the

relations to the commercial interests of the country, and the policy of leaving the disposition of those lands to the future decision of Congress, would thus be avoided. Should you, however, deem it proper to bring the subject before the present session, I recommend that provision be made for the appointment of commissioners, who shall be empowered to examine and decide upon the claims in question, subject to the revision of Congress. In the event of the establishment of such a tribunal, it will be proper to provide for the appointment of a solicitor, whose duty it shall be to represent before it all such persons as may be opposed to the claims of our citizens.

Although there has been considerable legislation, having for its object the settlement of the claims of our citizens to headrights and bounty lands, yet the existing laws are deemed insufficient for the full adjustment of those claims. The constitution, for instance, requires that all citizens living in Texas at the time of its adoption, who had not received their lands in like manner as soldiers, should be entitled to the same in the proportions therein specified. It will be known that a class of immigrants came and settled in the country between the 2d and 17th of March, 1836, and it is believed that by the existing laws, are precluded entirely from all claim to lands. This instance is mentioned to show the necessity of legislation for the purpose of ascertaining the character of unliquidated claims for land in favor of a portion of our citizens, but more for the purpose of illustrating the necessity of further legislative action to provide for the speedy settlement of all just claims of a similar or analogous description, which have remained unsatisfied.

To provide for perfecting the titles of our citizens by patents, in all cases where their inchoate rights have been properly consummated by authorized surveys, under legal and genuine certificates, or land warrants, is also recommended to your attention. Upon the proper declaration by the president that patents should be issued, and the fees, by act and declaration, the duties of officers in this behalf be fixed. Provision also, for ascertaining the net proceeds and disposing of the unappropriated lands

[illegible] the "principles of [illegible]" [illegible] by "[illegible]" [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Executive Department
Washington, 17th Dec. 1844.

To

The Hon. the House of Representatives:

In accordance to a Resolution of the Honorable House of the 13th Inst. I herewith respectfully transmit a statement from the Treasury Department, shewing all the salary Officers belonging to the Civil List &c.

John Jones

Executive Department
Washington, 17th Dec. 1844.

To

The Honorable the Senate:

Pursuant to a Resolution of the honorable Senate of the 13th Inst. I herewith transmit a statement from the Treasury Department, furnishing the desired information.

John Jones

Secret

Executive Department
Washington, 17th Dec. 1844.

To

The Honorable the House of Representatives:

In compliance with a recent Resolution of the Hon. House, adopted on the 11th Inst. I herewith transmit a communication with accompanying documents from the Secretary of the Treasury, and respectfully suggest that his remarks in regard to the expression of names, receive the attention of the Hon. House.

John Jones

Secret.

Executive Department,
Washington, 23rd Dec., 1841.

To
The Honorable The Senate:

In reply to a Resolution of the 22nd inst. requesting a statement of "the disposition of the appropriation made for the relief of Marine Sufferers" by the Executive would inform the Senate that the information required has been transmitted to the House of Representatives under an impression of secrecy. Owing to the intimate connexion of the documents in question, the President is unwilling to refer your Honorable body to the House, and trusts that the statement will furnish the desired proof of his prompt regard

Signed

Executive Department,
Washington, 23rd Dec., 1841.

To
The Honorable The Senate.

In compliance with a Resolution of your honorable body adopted on the 22nd inst. I herewith transmit a communication from the Acting Secretary of War & Marine, setting forth the cause which will unavoidably produced delay in immediately responding to the call.

The Honorable Senator will observe that the statements required in the resolution referred to, will be transmitted at the earliest moment possible.

Signed

Executive Department
Washington, 28th Dec. 1844.

To

The Honorable, The Senate:

I have the honor herewith to transmit a communication from the Acting Secretary of War and Marine of the 24th Inst. with accompanying documents, in compliance with a Resolution of your honorable body of the 21st Inst. embracing the information requested in said Resolution.

Executive Department
Washington, 27th Dec. 1844.

To

The Honorable, the Senate
and House of Representatives:

I have the honor herewith to transmit, for the information of your honorable bodies, the annual report of the superintendant of Indian affairs, together with an estimate shewing the amount due over and above the appropriations for the past year.

Executive Department
Washington, 30th Dec. 1844.

To

The Hon. James Truitt, Chairman, &c. &c.

In conformity with yours requests expressed in your note of the 29th Inst. I herewith transmit a communication from the Acting Secretary of War & Marine, with documents containing the desired information.

I have the honor to be, Your Obt. Servant

Secret

Executive Department
Washington 8th Dec. 1844.

To
The Honorable, the Senate:

I respectfully nominate, for their advice and consent of the Senate, the following nominations. viz.

Cullen Sweet	Notary Public.	Shelby County
Ira M. Truman	" "	Sumner "
Joseph Pinson	" "	Overton "
Robert Parker	" "	Travis "
L. C. Cunningham	" "	Fentress "

Andrew Jackson

Executive Department
Washington 6th February 1845.

To
The Hon: The House of Representatives:

The Executive embraces this opportunity to transmit, in compliance with a Resolution of your Hon: body of the 1st Inst., a communication from the Secretary of War & Marine, with documents accompanying, containing the required information.

Andrew Jackson

Secret

Executive Department
Washington, 8th January 1845.

To
The honorable, the Senate:

The Executive respectfully submits for your consideration and advisement, the following nominations. viz.

Robert S. Herndon.	Collector for District of Pensacola.	
Thomas Harvey	Notary Public.	Matagorda County.
H. W. O. Hicks	" "	Shelby "
George Fisher	" "	Harris "

Andrew Jackson

Executive Department
Washington, January 6th 1845.

To

The Hon: The House of Representatives:

The Executive has received and maturely considered the bill to be entitled an Act directing the President and Heads of Departments to return to the City of Austin, which he feels constrained by a sense of official duty, to return to the House in which it originated, without his signature.

This bill contemplates that the emergency which existed for the removal of these officers from the City of Austin has ceased. The Executive is aware that the immediate dangers which for a time threatened our western frontier have for some time past been intermitted. The Indian tribes have many of them been pacified, and those who still maintain a hostile attitude are, in a great degree, prevented from committing serious depredations by the influence and aid of the friendly tribes, and it is confidently anticipated by the President, that in the course of the ensuing spring, or at farthest by fall, a treaty of peace will have been concluded with all the tribes within our limits. Mexico also, either from inability to do so, or under the restraining moral influence of the United States and other powers, mutually friendly, has omitted for more than two years to send an invading force or a predatory party, into the country. The President trusts that this cause and these influences will continue to prevent Mexico from setting on foot any such invasion, or any predatory expeditions against Texas. But Mexico may at any moment assume a different attitude from that which she at present maintains.

The intelligence recently received from that country is, that the government of General Santa Anna has been overthrown, and another one installed in its place. The main reason assigned, is the same as was given by Santa Anna himself in subverting the government of Bustamente, that the government of that chieftain had not pursued with sufficient vigor the war against Texas.

If this information be correct, as there can be little doubt it is, it indicates a strong disposition on the part of the people of Mexico to renew the war against us. In such an event, the City of Austin would be eminently exposed to the attack of the enemy, and the government being there, might offer an inducement for such attack which the Town would not present.

In view of all the facts within the knowledge of the Executive, he cannot therefore conscientiously declare, by signing this bill, that the emergency has ceased to exist. It is only dormant and may again become in full force at no distant period, or between this time and the adjournment of the present Congress, at which it is contemplated the Executive and Heads of Departments shall return to the seat of government at Austin. In this event, it would manifestly be the duty of the President to remain at a place where the greatest security could be insured; and the law, if signed, would necessarily have to be violated by him, in discharging

required of him in this premises. I leave off here.

In haste this 14th morning the 20th [illegible]

martin, the President [illegible]

to which [illegible]

is so justly entitled.

Should the President [illegible]

any time [illegible]

offering to the Seat of Government [illegible]

which caused them much trouble and [illegible]

be directly responsible to Congress [illegible]

protected by that body, as they might [illegible]

If Congress coincides with this [illegible]

respectfully request that a law [illegible]

dollars be made at the present session [illegible]

purpose of enabling him to remove the Archives [illegible]

buildings thus in a suitable state [illegible]

constitutional duty, he should deem [illegible]

for other [illegible]

the assembling of them at Congress.

Yours [illegible]

Executive Department
Washington, January 9. 1845

To
The Hon: The House of Representatives:

The Executive, responding to the Resolution adopted on the 6th inst, requesting him to furnish the House with the proceedings of the late Naval Court Martial in the case of Post Captain E. W. Moore and others, and to inform the House to whom said proceedings were addressed by the Court, respectfully transmits the enclosed communications from the Acting Secretary of War & Marine, relating to the subject-matter of the Resolution and containing the information required by its concluding clause.

Secret

Executive Department
Washington, 10th January 1845

To
The Honorable, the Senate:

Since I had the honor on the 8th inst to renominate Mr George Fisher to the office of Notary Public for the County of Harris, I have been informed that Daniel D. Culp Esq, the incumbent of that office has returned from the United States after a long absence of many months; which long absence I had anticipated a virtual resignation of his office; it however, Mr Culp had not formally resigned; but on the contrary has expressed his wish to me to continue in the discharge of the duties of that office until the end of his term, I respectfully ask the permission of the Honorable Senate, to withdraw from before it, the nomination of Mr Fisher for the office referred to.

Stewart Newcomb
George Duncan
William Byrne
Archibald Jones
J. Wm. Mortimer Jr.

District Attorney for Fourth Judicial District
" " Third
" " Second
Notary Public " Parish Court
" " Cabinet

Dear Sir

The Standard Oil Trust

Inclosed I hand you herewith a notice and
resume of your Honor's duty, the following communications, viz:

Executive Department
Washington, 29th January 1845.

To

The Honorable, the Senate:

In compliance with a resolution of the Hon. Senate, dated January 28th, I have the honor to submit the accompanying communication and documents from the Department of State, which comprises "all the late correspondence between this Government and the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States on the subject of the annexation of Texas to the United States of America."

J. C. Calhoun

Secret.

Executive Department
Washington, 25th January 1845.

To

The Honorable, the Senate:

I respectfully submit for the advice and consent of your Hon. Body, the following nominations. viz.

Augustin Pinto. Consul for the Port of Bayonne. France.
Stephen N. Ellis. Notary Public. Bowie County.

J. C. Calhoun

Executive Department
Washington, 28th January 1845.

To

The Honorable, the Senate:

In compliance with a Resolution adopted on the 20th inst., the Executive herewith transmits a communication from the Hon. Secretary of State ad-interim, with the accompanying documents.

J. C. Calhoun

Washington, May 23d 1842.

To the Honorable
the House of Representatives:

The President has attended under consideration the bill entitled "An Act to amend an Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to authorize the issue of Treasury notes, and for other purposes," and returns the same without his signature, with his reasons for so doing.

This bill has for its object to prevent the issue of Treasury certificates intended for individuals to whom it is supposed the Government is under obligations, as defined by the 1st section of the act of 31st Feb. 1841, supplementary to "An act to authorize the issue of Treasury certificates," &c. &c. which right is limited by the 4th section of the act of 14th January 1843, now to and including the first day of January 1844. This is but one class of cases embraced by this description of persons entitled to receive Treasury certificates issued by any Collector of Customs, "in anticipation of the receipts of the general and local Governments," and who are duly authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury "to detect fraudulent certificates." The persons entitled to fraudulent certificates of the description above referred to, have never obtained from any of the Executive Departments any knowledge of their existence; and as the Secretary has no power to certify from any of the records for Texas scrip issued, that no such certificate is known to exist in the offices of the respective Departments, the fraud cannot be detected. This fraud is practised, to avoid the effect of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States. These decisions only declare the rights of fraudulent certificates, the consequences of the efficient action of the government and their Commissioners. Claimants of this description, have already had more than three years for the investigation of their claims against the Government, with the advantage of the matters contained in the statutes relative thereto, which fraudulent certificates would be barred at the expiration of the year 1843. It is a well established doctrine, that the Government cannot only be sued in the mode and tribunal provided by its own consent; and it is conceived, that the claims referred to, however equitable all the circumstances connected with them may be, cannot be enforced against the Government, without the renewal of the limitations which they have voluntarily or unjustifiably permitted to expire.

That power is to be attributed to the proceedings and decisions of the Treasury Board of Commissioners, is for the judicial tribunals of the country to determine. It is known that many respectable members of the Legislature entertain the opinion, that these decisions have not the effect, nor are in the nature of judgments rendered in civil cases of law. They with great plausibility insisting, that the rights of no person can be injuriously affected by

ex. fo according to authority be in matter of fraud. As is understood by system, however, that the documents should so far as respects the information contained in the reports of those Commissioners, as to entitle each the same claim of its statements respecting titles of individuals, until the investigating Board has pronounced fraudulent; and even so respecting the locations of those claims, in cases where surveys had not been consummated. This is both the exercise of a negative power over the subject of title to public, in order right so far to act in its own defence, and in protection of legal and genuine claims upon its domain, it is believed, can not be questioned.

The argument of the parties interested in the class of claims now precluded by the prescriptions, to avail themselves of the remedy established for their benefit, within the delay prescribed by the statute ought to be repealed by this bill under consideration, is, it is understood, induced many of our citizens to have genuine certificates within the last year, to locate portions of the land fraudulently surveyed of claims belonging to the class called fraudulent. In the entirety of operations, that the former should, and the same by any legislative act, to persons of the latter description, not by a delay of three years, have forfeited their rights altogether, still to establish their claims in the judicial tribunals of our country, especially as such establishment would of those forfeited claims, would have relations to their former locations, and might interest in the successful event, right to take effect from the time of the original surveys. Should it not be more equitable to leave the respective parties under the operation of the law, as it existed at the time when their conflicting rights accrued, without retarding the exercise of the advantages of judicial legislation for?

Similar rights or equities were created by certain surveys made for the benefit of individuals, by virtue of any of this class of certificates, before their rejection by the investigating Board, cannot be eliminated or destroyed by any law subsequently enacted. All the rights, if any such actually exist, remaining unaffected by the decision of these Commissioners; and the parties interested, will be protected in the enjoyment of them, by the judicial tribunals. Subsequent locations have segregated the lands from promiscuously covered, alternate sections, leaving portions, that may consolidate between them, and those claiming under surveys, would be settled by the same principles which the Land Commissioners would be governed. Under such circumstances, the Executive conceives that it would be manifestly prejudicial and unjust, for Congress now to enact a law, which by the invalidity of the former locations would be extended to the exclusion of the latter, and the title returned, is equally liable to this objection.

Again, it is well known fact, that some ten thousand specimens of certificates, purporting to be issued by former Boards of Land Commissioners — but all without authority,

peculiarly fraudulent character have been found in existence since the commencement of the present session of Congress, and that the Treasury peculiarly exposed to the imposition of these fraudulent claims, as would be the case if large and frequent appropriations for the payment of the national creditors. The certain way to prevention of the imposition is to establish the fraudulent character of these claims, which is frequently and to guide investigations directed in any courts throughout the several districts and counties, is rendered so inaccessible, strong or adventurous as it may be, even upon the facilities to establish these claims by means of forging and corruption, have been greatly increased by the increase of proofs and the pursuit of this object would be the duration of our tribunals, as contemplated by this bill, the Executive for the establishment of these rejected claims, the Executive is of opinion that any danger or a great additional advantages would thereby be afforded for the perpetration of frauds, which the Government would be every day growing less and less able to counteract or obviate, and which the bill itself would have an effect to stimulate, by holding out to the selfish and unprincipled, the strong incentive of unhallowed gain.

As the class of certificates rejected by the investigating board, there are no doubt a great many honest claims, the holders of which have neglected to assert their rights in season of their remedy by suit against the Government, but the proportion of such claims is believed to be very limited, when compared with the vast number to which the imputation of fraud justly attaches. The certain result therefore, would far exceed any prospective good likely to result from the passage of this bill to a law; and for these reasons, the Executive feels compelled to withhold from it his approval.

Executive Department
Washington, January 30th 1845

To

The Honorable
The House of Representatives.

"An act to be entitled an act supplementary to an act "defining the duties of the officers of the Treasury Department" approved 5th Feby 1840." is returned by the Executive without his signature for the reasons hereinafter given.

From the force of circumstances, well known to the House of Representatives, the avocations of the Government

time been presented in each of situations for remark against which remedy difficulty is possible for the officers of this Finance Department to take any action on claims against the Government in pickled and exhibited antiquities to the removal of this kind of defalcations from the Treasury. This bill provides for its going into effect from and after its passage. This certainly would open the door to fraud against the Government as the case stand, whilst it might on the other hand lead the Government to the commission of gross injustice to persons holding valid claims against it.

This Committee is well aware that there is a large number of claims long standing against the Government of a meritorious and just and equitable character. Such claims, however, vary greatly in their degree of merit; and to render the duties of the Auditor more explicitly defined than they are in the bill under consideration, it would be imposing a duty of too great responsibility on that officer to investigate to know the merits of claims which, in the first instance, must be brought before him.

In lieu of this, the Committee would refer to the provisions of an Act, approved May 21st 1839, entitled an Act to create a board or tribunal for the examining and auditing claims against the Government. From the deficiency of that statute in plainly marking out and defining the duties of the board, so large an amount of doubtful or indefinite claims were admitted, that the then Secretary deemed it necessary, in order to stop the evil, to abolish the board.

In January, the Committee had no other objection to this act, to the subsequent situation of the Treasury Department, with regard to its archives, as fine existing and indispensable objections, as the vouchers and documents of reference and investigations are, in unencumbered cases indispensible to the recognition of just claims, and the detection of such as would doubtless be in some instances presented to the Auditor for his action, supported by false authentications.

Jno Sloan Jr

Executive Department
Washington, May 3d 1845.

To
The Honorable
The Senate.

The Executive feels itself constrained from motives of public duty and private obligation, to return the "bill for the relief of Captain Stephen J. Field," to the Senate in which it originated, without its approval.

The grounds upon which the claim appears to be predicated are first the discretion vested in the Government, secondly in the claim and then the settlement of his personal account for services as Navy Agent in the years 1841, 1842, 1843 and 1844, more than six years after the transactions, that is to say excluded from the benefit of the application of that year for part pay of the officers of the Navy.

As to the first reason assigned, the Executive considers that all the offices, Military and Naval, connected with the Government, with few exceptions, are upon the same principle. Titles to relief, inasmuch as they stand exactly upon the same examination of facts and law, to those in service. So far as the Government had the ability to pay many volunteers at that time in the service the Navy, still had accounts and vouchers at the Office unsettled, and within the principle of this bill, as far as the Executive can ascertain, received the full amount to which they were entitled by the law; and claims thus accounts by certified in the settlement on principles of the accounts which have been settled upon the principles of which he was paid.

The circumstances mentioned in the preamble of the bill, of his drawing been excluded from the benefit of the act would simply that he was justly entitled to a participation in its benefits; but on very slight examination it will appear that it gives no additional force to the reasons of the law that he was excluded, and to no other officers, excepting only those in the same situation during the periods embraced in the provisions of the bill. The amount appropriated was required to be paid for services rendered in the year 1842 & 3. For which services no pay had been previously appropriated. Captain Todd did not happen to be of the number, and was therefore excluded, as were all the many officers who had been paid off and left the service prior to this date from which the pay was to be computed under the provisions of the said law. He was excluded, not from any omission on defect in the provisions, for the reasons above given.

Many of the late officers of the Navy — may nearly all of them — still had claims for services rendered prior to the year 1842. as well as entirely settled may

foreign mail due Captn Reid at the date of his going out of office, the Executive has not the means of ascertaining certainly, but if so, he would assuredly be entitled to the benefits of any future provision which the Government may find it expedient to adopt for the liquidation or adjustment of these claims. No exception should be made in favor of one to the exclusion of others equally meritorious.

But there are other reasons of more imperative importance than those already mentioned, which influence the Executive in this present action. The necessity to the maintenance of means at the disposal of the Government, to meet the current and necessary expenditures for supporting its different departments, for protecting the frontier properly, meeting the various liabilities for surveys & appropriations have already been rendered the present session, and paying this and the various other bills for private relief, now before him for his action, are exciting to many thousands of dollars, and if not to be drawn from the fees & duties alone, the amount of which cannot be ascertained having been entirely exhausted by appropriations for private relief. How to withhold his sanction from this bill, and withhold it from others of equal merit, at least with the present, he might subject himself to the charge of partiality, if not of injustice — and were he to sign one, the effect would be, to entitle the Government, as well as to impair its credit.

Andrew Jackson

Executive Department
Washington, Feby 5. 1845

The President requests the Hon: Mr Bibb & Smith, at his earliest convenience, to take charge of the Department of State of the Republic of Texas, and to proceed to the organization and the discharge of the duties of the Department requiring early attention

Please this direction to be
done. Respectfully
Your Obt Servant.

Andrew Jackson

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

the people be most definitely upon the subject of annexation by the resolutions of the parties, as prescribed in the resolution of the Texan Congress, passed the Executive to cause this proclamation to be made, with recommendations to the citizens of the several counties to meet on the 4th Monday in the month of the present year, and to appoint delegates to a convention to be held in the City of Austin on the 4th day of July next, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propositions of the United States, and if they should deem it expedient, to adopt the constitution, and submit it for the ratification or rejection of the people at the polls on the second Monday in October next.

This is the first time that the consent of the existing government of Texas has been required by any foreign power to the dismemberment of its territory, and the manner in which it is asked, by referring the question to the people, is well calculated to produce the most profound sensation throughout the country. It is a question which will come home to the business and bosoms of every individual citizen of Texas, and cannot be long misunderstood. The result will be known throughout the United States in less than three weeks from the issuing of the proclamation.

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

to report the proceedings of the Court-martial referred to in the
aforementioned order.

3d. "That the said Lt. W. Mercer did, on or about the
27th February 1848, receive from Capt Page or some under officer
of the seven years ten dollars three cents the amount of
his pension at the port of New Orleans, under the commu-
nication of the Secretary of War, and refuse to pay over
to this Court Martial, and refuse to this Specification
to plead, to which he pleaded guilty and refused obedience in the
manner & at the time aforesaid."

4th. "That the said Lt. W. Mercer did, on or about the
3d April, 1848, receive from this Court Martial an order of
proceedings from Command, dated on the 31st of March
of the seven years, requiring him to appear in answer to
the Specifications preferred, and notifying him that any
statement or plea or pleas which he or counsel might have
to file should be filed at the meeting of the Court on the
1st April, and refused to do so — to which the
charge referred to specification — and continued to exercise
the functions of a commissioned officer of the army."

To the Specifications to which pleas were entered, evidence was
given on the part of the prosecution, which the
Court considered sufficient to support the charge, and
to which no evidence in the slightest degree controverting
the Specifications was offered by the accused.

The jurisdiction of the Court martial in the case
of the 7 years soldiers, and to the Specifications
to which pleas were entered, was objected to by
Captain Mercer, the accused, on the ground that
the Court was illegally constituted, and that
the Specifications did not charge any offence
punishable by the Articles of War. The objection
was overruled by the Court, and the accused
pleaded to the Specifications, and evidence
was given in support of the charge.

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was overruled by the Court, and the accused
pleaded to the Specifications, and evidence
was given in support of the charge.

Executive Department
Washington, June 28th 1865.

Sir:

The Presidential record which has this day been executed, and which is herewith transmitted to you, is the result of a correspondence between myself and Governor Perry, of South Carolina, which has been published to the world, and which, I trust, will be satisfactory to the people of the United States.

Governor Perry, in his letter of the 22nd inst. to me, expressed the opinion that the Legislature of South Carolina, which had been elected by the people under the Provisional Government, could, by the repeal of the ordinance of secession, and the ratification of the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, abolishing slavery, restore the State to its former position in the Union.

In my reply of the 26th inst. I informed him that I could not take upon myself the responsibility of making so important a decision, but that I would submit his letter to the President, and would be governed by his instructions.

The President directs me to say that he does not consider that the Governor of South Carolina, or the Legislature elected by the people under the Provisional Government, can restore the State to its former position in the Union. That can be done only by the people, in Convention assembled, repealing the ordinance of secession, and ratifying the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing slavery.

Governor Perry has been informed that the Convention which framed the Provisional Government must be reassembled before the proposed action can be had.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
(Signed) William H. Seward

Executive Department
Trenton, June 28th 1865

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, D. C.

To
Gens. W. Tecumseh Sherman
etc.

The Congress of the United States has
directed to be presented to you a gold medal with appropriate devices
to your address, a copy of their Joint Resolution adopted on the 3rd
instant, tendering to you the gratitude of the nation. In
offering to you this tribute of "love and admiration," the representatives of the people have embodied and crystallized in
form and color the sentiments of a loyal people. Future ages will
regard eleven heroes as the highest product of our civilization.
Future
generations, with the calm judgment of history, will
the example of unselfishness, and the purity of patriotism
which characterized the "soldiers and statesmen" of the
United States, who, in the midst of civil war, never forgot
that they were citizens, and who, when the conflict was
ended, sheathed the sword, and turned to the employments
of the peace of a grateful people.

Permit me, personally, to thank you for the
care you have taken of the interests of this government, and to
express my admiration of the learning and strength with which
you have discharged the duties of your position. I desire that
you will accept the personal regards of Mrs. Lincoln and myself
and to assure Mrs. Sherman that her reception, as the wife of
a patriot whose name will be honored in all future time, will be
regarded with deep interest.

I having received this offering of gratitude for my services as exceptionary, with the friendly wishes from your health, peace and exaltation and also encouraged by the offer, do hereby only to exhibit this

I am your faithful friend and
most obedient humble servant.

Anson Jones

Executive Department
Austin, Feby 16th 1846.

To
The Honorable Abner S. Clark
Senator of the United States,

Sir:

I have
the honor to acknowledge the receipt of two letters from you
dated the 13th of this month, the one transmitting to me a copy
of the resolution passed by the United States for re-establishing a
consular establishment here by and the other enclosing certain
documents from Mr. Snyder directed to the Secretary of the Treas-
ury of the United States upon the subject embraced
in them, respectively and in reply to your request I have to inform you that
documents ought to be given by this government to vessels the Stat-
utes of which require of such certain duties and that the said
duties ought to be duly remitted to them.

In the arrangement of the offices of the Government
now being perfected in the New Constitution of Texas, it is not contem-
plated to create any office in addition to those now in existence
the duties of which (Consulary etc) have never of the State, which
would render necessary the duties of this office.

I have the honor to be
with the highest respect
Your Excellency's
most obedient Servant

Anson Jones

Executive Department,
Austin, Aug. 23 1845.

To/
General Z. Taylor,
Commanding Army of Occupation
&c. &c. &c

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th Inst., which was delivered me last evening. I have received no definite information in regard to a commencement of hostilities on the part of Mexico against the United States, but have rather inclined to the opinion that she would not adopt that course. The troops which she is moving towards Matamoras I thought probable might be intended only for the defence of that point and that the collection of them there was induced by the fact that the United States were moving troops to Corpus Christi and that the intention of the Government of Mexico was to act only defensively at present. This view however may not be correct, and it is certainly wise to be fully prepared for the opposite alternative and a due regard to the general welfare may make it necessary and quite proper that the whole of your force should be concentrated at Corpus Christi for the defence of that point. In this situation of affairs I concur in your recommendation that the different points on our frontier, now occupied by any troops in the service of Texas should continue to receive adequate protection in the manner you propose, against any outbreak of Indians which might occur, as well as against our Mexican enemies. I would therefore designate as you request the following companies to be mustered into the service of the United States, in the manner you propose, viz: One full Company of Rangers (mounted gunmen) under the command of Capt. P. Nansborough Bell, at Corpus Christi. One full Company of Rangers as above under the command of Capt. John T. Price, at or near Goliad. This company to be continued in position near Goliad or to be transfered to Corpus Christi as you may think proper to direct. One full company of Rangers at Bexar under the command of Major P. C. Hays. One full Company of Rangers at the City of Austin under the command of Capt. D. C. Cady. One full Company of Artillery at Austin under the command of an Officer to be selected and appointed by me. One Company of Rangers of thirty men, at Caldwell, Milam County, under the command of Lt. R. S. Teal. One Company of Rangers of thirty men at T. J. Smith's in Robertson County, under the command of Lt. Thomas J. Smith. One Company of Rangers of thirty men at Dallas in Fannin County, under the command of Lt. John M. Gara. These several companies will it is believed afford adequate protection under present circumstances to the several points indicated on our frontier, and serve as a nucleus around which to rally a volunteer or Militia force, in the the event of any sudden outbreak of the Indians, or an irruption on the part of the Mexicans.

I send by the bearer of this to Col. Clark L. Owen, of Texana, a Commission as Col: in the volunteer infantry of Texas with instructions from the Secy of War & Marine to enrole and have in readiness a force not exceeding One thousand men — and to muster them into service and place himself under your command and

cooperate with you in the event of an actual invasion by Mexico, or upon your request. The number of men you may wish called into service, under Col. Owen not exceeding the above number you will please make known to him and they will be mustered accordingly. Each man will be expected to furnish himself with a rifle and fifty rounds of ammunition, and to conform strictly to the orders of the Officers in Command.

Your proximity to the scene of active operations and means of early information will enable you to judge correctly of the amount of force you will require. If those designated above should not be sufficient, I will at your request call into service any additional number of men within my control that you may indicate.

I shall remain at this place until a day or two after the adjournment of the Convention which will probably take place about the 1st Sept. The Secretary of War & Marine will continue his Office permanently here. If in his power he will pay you a visit in the course of two or three weeks at Corpus Christi. I shall return to this place in October. Should the state of your service permit it will afford me much gratification to meet you and to confer with you personally in relation to the dispositions proper to be made for the permanent occupation and defence of the frontier of Texas and upon matters connected therewith.

I have the honor to be,
with the highest respect.
Your Obt. Servant.

Anson Jones

To

Gen. Z. Taylor.
U. S. A.

Commanding Army of Occupation.

City of Austin.
Aug. 23. 1845

To Col. Clark L. Owen.

Sir,

I arrived at this place one week since, and shall remain until after the adjournment of the Convention now in session. On yesterday I received by an express a letter from Gen. Z. Taylor, commanding the Army of Occupation of the United States, informing me of his arrival at Corpus Christi, and that one company of Artillery and a Brigade of Infantry were in position at that place, and would soon be reinforced by seven companies of Dragoons, and an additional Regiment of Infantry. His total force will then amount to about eighteen hundred men. In addition to this Capt. Bell is authorized to enroll a company of Rangers and Capt. Price another Company of the same number and to muster them into the service of the United States to act as Spies or Rangers.

Apprehensions are entertained by Gen. Taylor that he will be attacked in his position by the Mexican troops which, in force, as reported of five thousand men are encamping from Tampico, San Luis Potosi and other points upon Matamoras. Gen. Taylor does not think it prudent therefore to detach any portion of his forces at the present time for the defence of our frontier, and has further notified me that he will immediately despatch an Officer to muster into the service of the United States any Companies I may think proper to designate for the protection of the said frontier. I have in consequence designated one full company under the Command of Major J. C. Hays, for the defence of Texas. One full Company under the Command of Capt. Cook for the defence of this place and probably another full company of Artillery. One Company of thirty men under the Command of Lieut. Tate of Williamson County. One Company of thirty men under the command of Lt. Thos. F. Smith of Robertson County and one Company of thirty men under the command of Lt. John McGarra of Fannin County for the protection of the frontiers of those Counties respectively. General Taylor forces with Capt. Bell and Price Companies of Rangers and the other several enumerated Corps will think afford the necessary temporary protection in almost any event which may occur and will form so many nuclei around which to rally any volunteer or militia force which it may become necessary in case of invasion or Indian disturbances to call into the service of the Country.

The Indians on our frontier with the exception of one or two very small bands continue to manifest a very pacific disposition and I anticipate no outbreak on their part. I can scarcely believe that Mexico will have the foolish temerity to invade Texas and wage war against us and the U. S. But it is my duty to be prepared for the worst event which may happen and to be ready to cooperate with Gen. Taylor with all the force necessary to give them a proper reception should they come

For this purpose I have caused to be forwarded to you by the Secretary of War & Marine a Commission as Colonel

of Infantry in the Volunteer service of Texas, which I hope it will suit your feelings and convenience to accept. Instructions are furnished with the Commission. Should you conclude to accept and discharge the duties of this appointment I leave the manner of carrying out your instructions to your sound discretion. You are much nearer the Scene of action than we are here, and will be governed by circumstances. I do not wish any movement made unless upon the most reliable proof that there is an actual invasion of the country made, or about to be made, or upon a request from General Taylor. In either of the above events you will act promptly — but not otherwise. In the meantime there need be neither alarm nor excitement among the people. I should wish strict discipline enforced and none enrolled except those who are willing to be subordinate in all respects to the Officers in command.

As I have before stated I do not seriously apprehend a present invasion on the part of Mexico. But should such an event happen I think General Taylor competent to repel it. But if contrary to all expectations the enemy should invade and succeed in defeating the forces of General Taylor and to reaching the Nueces your force would be ready and hold the Mexicans in check until the Country could rally to your support.

I think you will find an efficient coadjutor in Col. (D.) McCulloch of Gonzales, and I should be much pleased to see him placed second in command to yourself, if agreeable to you and those who may be enrolled under your command.

The Secretary of War and Marine will keep his Office here permanently. The other Officers of the Government will I expect be removed to this place early in October next. The Convention will probably adjourn about the 1st of September.

I have the honor to be,
Very Respectfully.
Your Obt. Servant

Thos. J. Rusk

P. S. — If convenient it might be well for you to have a personal interview with General Taylor, and agree with him upon the course to be adopted.

A. B.

Austin, August 28. 1845

To Col. Clark L. Owen,

Sir.

I wrote you on the 23d Instant by the hands of Capt. Everett, sent up from Corpus Christi by General Taylor as a Special Express, which letter with accompanying documents from the War Department you doubtless received in due time. Last evening I received by an Express from Galveston an official letter from the government of the United States from which I extract for your information the following paragraph.

"Intelligence &c"

You will perceive by this that the probabilities of invasion are somewhat increased. A deposit of arms and munitions sufficient for ten thousand men will be made by the United States at Galveston, and should it be necessary to call out a large force the means of arming them will be at hand.

I am in haste or would write you more in detail. I hope to hear from you soon. In the meantime, I remain,

With great regard,

Your friend and Servt

Anson Jones

Executive Department,
Barrington, Sept. 28. 1845.

To B. F. Hill, Esq.
Acc'g Secy. War and Marine.
Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22d Instant, which with the despatches from General Taylor, were handed me by Mr. Smith on the day before yesterday.

Copies of these despatches are herewith enclosed for file in your Department. A copy of my reply will be forwarded you so soon as it can be made out.

I wish to be furnished with a statement from the War Department of the Militia force of Texas, &c. &c., in order to comply with the requests for information contained in General Taylor's letter of the 28th Ultimo. By reference to that letter you will see what kind of a statement I shall require for that purpose. Please make it out in as perfect a manner as the records of your Office will admit and forward the same to me by the ordinary conveyance.

In my reply to General Taylor I have suggested the reasons for proposing the Artillery Company at Austin, and refer the final decision of the matter to his judgment.

I have the honor to be,
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.

Anson Jones

Gentlemen of the Senate
and of the House of Representatives:

The great measure of annexation, so earnestly desired by the people of Texas is happily consummated. The present occasion so full of interest to us, and to all the people of this country, is an earnest of that consummation; and I am happy to greet you as their chosen representatives, and tender to you my cordial congratulations on an event the most extraordinary in the annals of the world, and one which marks a bright triumph in the history of republican institutions. A government is changed both in its officers and its organic law — not by violence and disorder, but by the deliberate and free consent of its citizens: and amid the most perfect and universal peace and tranquility, the sovereignty of the nation is surrendered, and incorporated with that of another.

There is no precedent for this, and henceforward "Annexation" is a word of new import in the political vocabulary of America, to form a subject for the speculations of the Statesman and the intellectual labors of the Sage. Nations have generally extended their dominions by conquest; their march to power involving bloodshed and ruin, and their attainment of it often followed by suffering and calamity to a despairing and subjugated people. It was left for the Anglo-American inhabitants of the western Continent to furnish a new mode of enlarging the bounds of empire, by the more natural tendency and operation of the principles of their free government. Whatever objections may have been heretofore urged to the territorial enlargement of the Union, those objections must now be regarded as overruled and as being without practical effect. Annexation is the natural consequence resulting from congenial impulses and sympathies; and the operation and influence of like sympathies and impulsies is destined, as soon as can be important or necessary, to settle all conflicts in relation to the claim of the United States to any territory now in dispute on this continent.

In accordance with the provisions of the new constitution adopted in the Convention, called by me on the fourth of July last, a State government is now perfectly and fully organized, and I, as President of the Republic, with my Officers, am now present to surrender into the hands of those whom the people have chosen, the power and the authority which we have some time held. This surrender is made with the most perfect cheerfulness, and in respectful submission to the public will. For my individual part, I beg leave further to add that the only motive which has heretofore actuated me in consenting to hold high and

responsible office in this my adopted and beloved country, has been to aid, by the best exertions of such abilities as I possessed, in extricating her from her difficulties, and to place her in some safe and secure condition, where she might be relieved from the long pressure of the past and repose from the toils, the sufferings and threatened dangers which have surrounded her. I have considered annexation on favorable terms as the most secure and advantageous measure for Texas, and as affording the best prospect for the attainment of the object I had in view, and have, accordingly, in different capacities labored most assiduously to open the door in the United States, to its accomplishment. In this I succeeded. I sincerely wish the terms could have been made more advantageous, more definite and less fraught with subjects of future dispute; but as they proved entirely acceptable to a vast majority of my fellow citizens, I felt it to be my imperative duty, so soon as that fact was known, faithfully and promptly to carry into full effect the will and the wishes of the people. This I have done; and in the execution of this work, I am happy to add, I have received the cordial support and co-operation of every member of my cabinet, and of every officer of the government at home and abroad, whose services I have had occasion to employ in connexion with it. Annexation has met with no impediment in Texas, nor has any been attempted by the Government; and I believe I am justifiable in saying that it has been accomplished in the very safest and best manner practicable, and at the very earliest possible period of time. I know of no course which could have been adopted which would have effected this object one single day earlier. In the mean time I have obtained from Mexico a formal acknowledgment of our national independence, thereby removing the principal objection to the measure on the part of the United States.

Satisfied that the happiness and welfare of Texas are placed on a strong and secure foundation, and that she will now find many friends better qualified than myself, who will take care of her interests, the motive to which I have alluded as having activated me in holding office, is no longer operative; and in retiring now to private life, I but indulge my individual wishes; and I lay down the honors and the cares of the Presidency with infinitely more of personal gratification than I assumed them. The confidence and the favors which the liberality of my fellow citizens has bestowed upon me, meet and receive my gratitude and my heartfelt thanks. Whatever injustice may have been done me, in moments of excitement, I indulge the belief that when correct information is disseminated in regard to my whole course, the public mind will settle down into proper conclusions, and that my fellow-citizens will then judge me rightly. At least, I have the approbation of my own conscience, a reward in itself above all price, and repose upon the assured belief that history and posterity will do me no wrong.

I am happy to congratulate you gentlemen, upon the universally prosperous condition of our Country at the present time. Our foreign relations have all been closed in a manner satisfactory, I believe, to all the governments with which we have had intercourse. The frontier is quiet and secure, and the husbandman sows and reaps his fields in peace. Industry and enterprize have received new guaranties and a new impulse — a market is found at home for nearly every thing our citizens have to dispose of, and a large and very desirable immigration to the country is now taking place. The expenses of the government since I have been in office, have all been paid in an undepreciated currency, — a very considerable amount of debt incurred by previous administrations has been paid off, and a surplus of available means sufficient to defray the expenses of the Government, economically administered, for the next two years, at least, is left at the disposition of the state; and I venture the belief that, without resort to taxation, the public domain, if properly handled and disposed of, will

raise a fund sufficient to liquidate the entire national debt upon equitable principles, besides providing for the future support of the State government, a system of common schools and other institutions for the intellectual, moral and religious improvement of the rising generation. With such a population as Texas possesses, characterized as it is with great intelligence and enterprize, and with such elements of prosperity as she now possesses, a genial climate and a fertile soil, it will be her own fault if she does not reach an importance and a social elevation, not surpassed by any community on earth.

Detailed Reports from all the different Departments and Bureaus, showing the transactions of the government since the last annual meeting of Congress, are made out and will be handed to His Excellency the Governor, for transmission in due time to your honorable bodies. The information which these contain will show the manner in which the public affairs have been conducted, since I came into office, and constitute in part the necessary data upon which to predicate your future action. It does not come within the province of my appropriate duty to make any suggestions or recommend any measures for your consideration. This task now belongs to another, and who, I am well satisfied, be discharged with, faithfulness and ability. I may, however, express the fervent hope, which I have, that your important deliberations, commenced under such favorable auspices may result in the promotion of the permanent welfare of the State of Texas, and that your labors may be crowned with abundant blessings.

The Lone Star of Texas, which ten years since arose amid clouds, over fields of carnage, and obscurely shown for a while, has culminated, and, following an inscrutable destiny, has passed on and become fixed forever in that glorious constellation, which all freemen and lovers of freedom in the world must reverence and adore — the American Union. Blending its rays with its sister stars, long may it continue to shine, and may a gracious Heaven smile upon this consummation of the wishes of the two Republics, now joined together in one. — "May the Union be perpetual, and may it be the means of conferring benefits and blessings upon the people of all the States," is my ardent prayer.

The final act in this great drama is now performed: the Republic of Texas is no more.

Anson Jones